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SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

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MESSAGE:

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE BELOW **IDENTIFIED CASE TO EXAMINER J. BAXTER**

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-014-8

Application No.: 10/003,996

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: November 15, 2001

Examiner: J. Baxter

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE REMOVAL

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION 1.

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On September 23, 2003

Paul Bianco

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ATTENTION: Patent Examiner Jessica Baxter

Signature of Person Transmitting Facsimile

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 8298

Application No.: 10/003,996

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-014-8

Filed: November 15, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3731

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE

REMOVAL

Examiner: J. Baxter

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Introductory Comments

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet. Claims 36-44, 46, 47, 49, 51-60, and 69-76 remain in this application and are submitted for the Examiner's review and consideration. In this Response, Applicant has amended certain claims and canceled other claims. Applicant believes these amendments, cancellations, and accompanying remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

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ATTENTION: Patent Examiner Jessica BAXTER On September 23, 2003

Paul Bianco

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